GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2008
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Electoral Reforms
Rathore Shri Hariom Singh;Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed or has any data regarding the total expenditure incurred by the Government on conducting various elections in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has examined the Law Commission Report Nos. 244 and 255 on electoral reforms and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
(d) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding holding of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies and use of totaliser machines for counting of votes and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, the time by which the electoral reforms are likely to be implemented in the country?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED OT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2008 FOR 10.12.2015

(a) to (b): As per the policy of the government, the expenditure incurred on the Lok Sabha Election (be it General or Bye-elections) is entirely borne by the Central Government when such elections are held independently. However, the expenditure on State/Union territory Legislative Assemblies is shared on a half and half basis only when these elections are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections. For conduct of General election to Lok Sabha, the State/Union territory (with legislature) Governments propose their demands to the Central Government as provisional estimates. The Central Government releases the funds to the State/Union territory Governments keeping in view the demands received from them and availability of funds. This exercise is of a routine nature and funds are released on a year-to-year basis. The State/Union territory Governments incur the expenditure for conduct of General elections to Lok Sabha from their Consolidated Fund and thereafter make a claim for re-imbursement of the incurred amount to the Central Government. The election accounts are settled only after receipt of the Audit Certificates from the Office of the Accountant General of the respective State/Union territory Governments. However, the provisional release made to State/Union territory Governments during the last three years i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is as given below:-

Figures in crore

YEAR	Provisional release
2012-13	190.37
2013-14	328.60
2014-15	510.00

(c) and (e): The 244th and 255th Reports of the Law Commission of India on Electoral Reformsare currently being examined by a Task Force with a view to prepare a roadmap for implementation of the various recommendations.

(d): The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice is examining the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Use of Totaliser for counting of votes is one of the recommendations of the Law Commission, which is currently under examination. Since the matter involves wide consultations and deliberations with various stake-holders, no specific time frame can be indicated for implementations of the recommendations.